

on the street about their views of the Taiwanese elections. Some supported the government's response, others did not. This change should not be underestimated. It is the unavoidable result of improving conditions and interaction with the West.

One has but to look back at the Cultural Revolution of 35 years ago to see the contrast and improvement in freedoms, in the increasing standard of living, wages and savings, and better education of the people, to know that things are changing and improving. As Minister of Trade Wu Yi said to me, "It isn't easy to go from a China which has been ruled by man for 5000 years to a China ruled by law." And that is what is happening.

With the Taiwan elections behind us, we now have the opportunity to move past some of the events that soured Sino-American relations earlier this year.

To do this, President Clinton must immerse himself fully in the details of this most delicate and critical of American relations. In the final analysis, the goal of American policy must be to encourage China toward a full and active relationship with the West and to work together toward a China that is able to take its role as a stable leader of peace and security in Asia, and an America that can be her ally.●

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to a recent event hosted by the National Endowment for Democracy honoring the first popularly elected President of the Republic of China, Lee Teng-hui. I was honored to serve as a cosponsor of this event with Senator LIEBERMAN.

It is entirely appropriate that this reception was organized by the National Endowment for Democracy [NED]. The recent direct, free and fair multiparty election for President in Taiwan is a model example of the activities supported by NED. I want to use this occasion to congratulate the NED for its continued involvement in encouraging free and democratic institutions throughout the world through private sector initiatives. A copy of the National Endowment for Democracy's tribute to President Lee is included at the end of my statement.

Americans everywhere should congratulate the people of Taiwan in casting ballots to complete their transition to a democracy during trying times—the first such transition in Chinese history. It is a tribute to the people's spirit and determination that bullets did not deter people from casting their ballots. And President Lee, who received 54 percent of the vote, can proudly take credit for having led Taiwan to this important juncture. He has set an example in leading his countrymen in deciding that the leadership of Taiwan will forever more be settled at the ballot box.

His victory on March 23 culminated a series of reforms—including lifting martial law, deregulating the media, legalizing opposition parties, and hold-

ing popular elections for all parliamentary seats—that have taken place in a peaceful and prosperous environment. This is an accomplishment for which all the free world should be proud.

President Lee deserves not only our well-wishes, but also our continued support as he now moves forward to map out Taiwan's destiny. As Taiwan continues to emerge as a force for democracy, freedom, and stability in Asia, I believe the United States should encourage their efforts to be represented in international organizations such as the World Trade Organization. The United States should also do what it can to encourage dialog between Taiwan and Beijing, and to contribute to peace and stability in the region.

I join my many friends in Taiwan in celebrating President Lee's triumph as Taiwan marks a milestone in civilization's march down the road of self-determination leading to liberty, human dignity, and personal and societal fulfillment.

I ask that a statement from the National Endowment for Democracy be printed in the RECORD.

The statement follows:

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI

(By the National Endowment for Democracy, April 16, 1996)

The election of Lee Teng-hui on March 23, 1996, as the first popularly elected President of the Republic of China was the culmination of a 10-year process of transition which The Encyclopedia of Democracy has called "a political miracle in twentieth-century Chinese politics, making Taiwan the first Chinese democracy." President Lee was the central figure and driving force behind this remarkable political transformation.

From the moment he assumed the presidency on January 13, 1988, becoming the first native-born Taiwanese to hold this office, he devoted himself entirely to the historic task of democratic transformation launched by his predecessor Chiang Ching-kuo. The process was at once swift and methodical, with each bold step coming in the proper sequence, laying the foundation for each subsequent advance.

Acting in the Confucian tradition of governance through consensus, he initiated the process with a conference on national affairs that achieved a political reconciliation between his own Nationalist Party and the opposition Democratic Progressive Party. There followed an agreement to establish a memorial and pay compensation to the victims of the uprising of February 1947; the elaboration of an approach to the issue of unification which became the basis for a new, pragmatic policy toward the People's Republic; the election of a new National Assembly representing only the voters of Taiwan that amended the constitution, preparing the way for the popular election of the president and vice-president by 1996; the voluntary retirement from the government of the party elders from the generation of Chiang Ching-kuo; and the first election for provincial governor and for mayors of Kaohsiung and Taipei, the race in Taipei being won by a member of the DPP who was a former political dissident.

This stunning process of change, leading ultimately to President Lee's election and the establishment of the first Chinese democracy, was all the more significant because it took place against a background of mounting threats from the mainland—which

fears a Chinese model of democracy—and skepticism emanating from some capitals to the effect that democracy is a Western system unsuited to Asian cultures.

But it is precisely on this point, having to do with the roots of Chinese democracy in Confucian culture, that President Lee has spoken with unusual power and eloquence. At the conference on third wave democracy sponsored last August by the Endowment and the Institute for National Policy Research, President Lee expressed his confidence that "by injecting into our modern democratic order the political precepts long inherent in Chinese culture—of exalting the people's will and claiming that the government and the people form a unity—we can infuse democracy with a new vitality."

Lee Teng-hui is thus a unique figure in Chinese history, an individual with the wisdom to understand the need to integrate the two competing camps of contemporary Chinese political thought: the Confucianists and the advocates of Westernization. In so doing, he has embodied the Confucian ideal of ren, described in the entry on Confucianism in The Encyclopedia of Democracy as "cultivating benevolence, developing one's faculties, sublimating one's personality, and upholding the right to education, the right to subsistence, and the right to social and political mobility without distinction according to class." Ren, according to the Encyclopedia, represents "a new democratic ideal of society."

It is this ideal which President Lee Teng-hui has sought for his country and for the Chinese people. The National Endowment for Democracy is therefore proud to honor President Lee by presenting him with an embossed four-volume set of The Encyclopedia of Democracy, which recognizes his extraordinary contribution and confirms his philosophical vision. We do so in the belief that his message of democracy and reconciliation, rooted in Chinese history and culture, have an enduring relevance for China's future.●

CITIZENSHIP U.S.A. DAY IN CHICAGO

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, our Nation's immigrant heritage is exemplified best in the city of Chicago. Generations of immigrants, from Europe, Latin America, and more recently Asia and Africa have chosen to come to Chicago and have contributed immensely to the vitality and fabric that makes it such a great city.

Recently, the city of Chicago sponsored a naturalization ceremony for 1,200 new citizens at historic Navy Pier with the Immigration and Naturalization Service Chicago District Office.

To help immigrants fully integrate into our city and our society, Mayor Richard M. Daley established a citizenship assistance council to help thousands of immigrants complete the often complicated naturalization process. The council has attracted leaders from various ethnic communities and corporate leaders from Fannie Mae, United Airlines, and First Chicago. Through the citizenship council, Mayor Daley has committed to sponsor several large scale citizenship ceremonies with INS in the coming months.

The naturalization program in the city of Chicago is truly a joint effort between the Federal and local government. I applaud Mayor Daley's effort